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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,718	12/08/2000	Donald C. Abbott	TI-29679	2496

23494 7590 01/14/2003

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EXAMINER

CAO, PHAT X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2814

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/733,718

Applicant(s)

ABBOTT ET AL.

Examiner

Phat X. Cao

Art Unit

2814

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 24 December 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: (see attached papers).
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: 7 and 24.Claim(s) rejected: 1-6, 8-16, 21-23.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

ADVISORY ACTION

A) With respect to Kim (claims 1-6 and 8-16), Applicant argues that Kim does not suggest “an adherent layer of palladium” because the adherent layer 54 is palladium alloy.

Applicant’s arguments are not persuasive because the limitation of having an adherent layer of pure palladium does not seem to be required by the claim language. Therefore, “an adherent layer of palladium” as claimed can be interpreted as either “pure palladium” or “palladium alloy” layer.

Applicant further argues that Kim does not suggest an adherent layer of palladium 54 “selectively covering areas” of the palladium film 53 as recited in claims 1 and 12 because the adherent layer 54 completely covers film 53, but not portions of film 53.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees because the layer 54 does not completely cover film 53 as asserted by Applicant, but rather, the layer 54 only covers the top surface areas of film 53, but not the side surfaces or bottom surface of film 53.

B) With respect to Abys (claims 21-23), Applicant argues that Abys does not suggest a second layer 25 “covering portions” of a first layer 23 because the layer 25 completely covers the first layer 23, but not portions of the first layer 23.

Art Unit: 2814

The Examiner respectfully disagrees because the second layer 25 does not completely cover the first layer 23 as asserted by Applicant, but rather, the second layer 25 only covers the top surface areas of the first layer 23, but not the side surfaces or bottom surface of the first layer 23.



PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER